REMARKS

Former dependent claim 5 was rejected based on the reference to Sotoda. The office action cites column 12, lines 55-60.

In one embodiment, an animator may move an animation object in different directions. These directions may be captured and then frames may be linked together to create an animation or motion. It is not necessary to manually remove the user's hands, for example, from the video, since, in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention, the user's hands that are necessarily captured are automatically removed from the captured video.

Column 12, line 55 of Sotoda, refers to a binary image having a value of 1 generated for portions where flesh tone is detected and a binary image having a value of 0 for other portions. But this in no way indicates that the flesh color is removed. There would be no reason for doing so. Instead, Sotoda codes whether flesh motion has been detected and, if so, controls the zooming based on that detection. There is no removing of the flesh colored image from the scene.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 1, its dependent claims, as well as claims 8-17, is respectfully requested.

Claim 18 calls for capturing a video image of a speaker and receiving audio information through the speaker through at least one microphone. The user's position is determined and, based on the user's position, a characteristic of the microphone is adjusted.

Claim 18 was rejected over Josephson. The cited material in Josephson relates to nothing more than the ability of the display 7 to be adjusted. See column 5, lines 55-66. Thus, there is nothing which determines the user's position in Josephson and there is nothing that teaches automatically adjusting a characteristic of a microphone based on the user's position.

Therefore, claim 18 patentably distinguishes over Josephson.

Claim 23 calls for a device to determine the user's position with respect to at least two microphones and to adjust the data from each microphone in response to the user's position relative to each microphone. Josephson has no such device to determine the user's position with respect to at least two microphones and no device to adjust the data from each microphone in response to the user's position relative to each microphone. Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of claim 23 is respectfully requested.

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Claim 28 calls for a method that includes using identified color and motion to implement background segmentation. As explained in the specification, background segmentation is the separation of background material from foreground material. For example, in a weather broadcast, the foreground material is the weather person and the background material is the scenery behind the weather person.
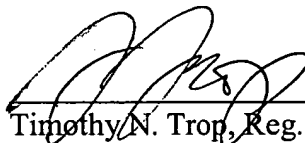
There is no removal of any background material or implementation of background segmentation in Sotoda.

Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection of this claim is respectfully requested.

In view of these remarks, the application should now be in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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